



— PHOTO BY H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

## Christmas — 1965

### AN EDITORIAL

It is such a simple story. An obscure village is a far away land, a peasant mother and a new-born babe, a frantic husband finding only a stable as a resting place for his tired wife, shepherds in the fields hearing angelic hosts, and wise men, bearing gifts, following a special star.

Put it all together and it makes the most wondrous story ever told.

It has been read in hundreds of millions of family circles through almost 20 centuries.

It has been preached in millions of pulpits.

It has been printed on innumerable pages.

It has been sung by myriads of choirs.

It has been sounded around the world by radio and television.

No story the world ever has heard is more widely known or more deeply loved.

And now, the season for its retelling

has come once again. Yet, one cannot but ask, what meaning can such a story have for the space age, an hour when scientists are breaking through all barriers of knowledge and probing the deepest mysteries?

Why should the world be concerned with such a tale, when its astronauts have just returned from fantastic achievements in space, and already the equipment is being readied for reaching the moon in this decade?

What meaning can the story have to modern sophisticated men, with his materialistic philosophies, and his computer answers?

Why should men turn aside to ponder a cradle, when the world is on fire with tragic conflict?

Why should the race stop its mad rush of complex living, and even in the midst of what will be, for many, a paganistic observance of the season, to listen to a simple story of long ago?

(Continued on page 2)

## Top Giving Churches Listed

### By the Baptist Press

Fifteen churches in the Southern Baptist Convention received more than half-a-million dollars each in total contributions from their members last year.

Nine of those churches also reported church property valued at more than \$3 million.

A list of churches in the denomination which reported more than \$500,000 in total receipts, and a similar list of churches with property value over \$3 million were compiled by the research and statistics department of the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville.

First Baptist Church of Dallas, the largest church in the convention with 13,291 members, topped both lists.

Total contributions to the Dallas church last year were reported at \$1,588,000, and the church's property including three city blocks in downtown Dallas was valued at \$7 million.

First Baptist in Dallas also gave more to missions last year than any other church in the convention, with \$470,500 reported.

Of the 15 churches giving more than \$500,000 during the

year, seven were in Texas, Tennessee, two in Georgia and Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Seven churches in Texas reported property value over \$250,000 to the school.

(Continued on page 3)

The  
Members  
And Employees  
Of The Mississippi  
Baptist Convention Board  
Extend To All Of Our Readers  
Our Very Best Wishes For A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
And  
A  
Happy New Year

## On The Keeping Of Christmas

done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not

what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the

weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it

in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

## FMB Adds 24—Total 2,072

In its December meeting the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed 24 career missionaries and employed a couple for a three-year term as missionary associates, bringing its overseas mission staff to 2,072.

(The figure includes 103 persons employed for short-term service, such as a group of young missionary journeymen, missionary associates, and six nurses who have gone out to serve in mission hospitals for short terms.)

Dr. Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Board, said the new missionaries bring to 220 the number secured this year. This is the largest number appointed and employed in one year in the 120-year history of the Board.

Dr. Cauthen's report reviewed other accomplishments of 1965. The launching of the Missionary Journeyman Program (for single college graduates under 27) has been one of the memorable developments of the year, he said. Crusades of evangelism have been held in several countries, notably in Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico, Ecuador, Spain, Nigeria, British Guiana, France, and Brazil.

The nationwide effort in Brazil, which began at the end of January with 150,000

people gathered for a religious service in the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, was especially outstanding, Dr. Cauthen said. "More than 82,000 decisions for Christ have been registered in local churches, and the revival services continue. The formal end of this campaign will come in another mass rally in Sao Paulo in January, 1966.

"Special evangelistic efforts in 1966 are planned for Ghana, Trinidad, Mexico, Chile, British Guiana, Peru, the Bahamas, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Poland, and Japan. Plans are nearing completion

for an Asia-wide Sunday School Crusade for 1966. This should be one of the most remarkable steps in church development ever undertaken in the world.

"The burgeoning population increase throughout the world has placed upon us fresh demand for stepping up the impact of every ministry we undertake to project. A missionary consultation held last summer in Miami Beach, Fla., gave impetus to the study of the world's spiritual needs and ways in which Southern Baptists can make greater impact upon those

needs."

Dr. Cauthen said the year has brought many evidences of greater involvement on the part of Southern Baptist churches and individuals in the worldwide missionary undertaking. But the major significance, he said, has been the demonstration and witness of dedication and stability by the missionaries across the world, especially in disturbed areas such as the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Rhodesia.

(Continued on page 3)

### COURT REFUSES APPEAL—

## School Prayers Rejected

WASHINGTON (BP) — The

United States Supreme Court

refused to hear an appeal in

a case that would require

public schools to make pro-

vision for religious exercises

in the daily school program.

The case had been ap-

pealed to the Supreme Court

by 15 parents of 21 children

ranging from 5 to 11 years of

age. The children attend Public

School 184 at Whitestone, N. Y., in grades ranging from

kindergarten to the sixth.

Religious exercises in the

school had been stopped as a

result of the Regents Prayer

case in 1962 which prohibited

official prayers in schools.

Since then, the courts also

ruled out required Bible read-

ing and recitation of the

Lord's Prayer.

The United States District

Court, Eastern District of

New York, had ordered the

school to restore the practice

of reciting prayers in class-

rooms. Later the United States Court of Appeals re-

versed the decision and sus-

tained the school decision.

The U. S. Supreme Court

refused to hear an appeal from

this latter decision.

Although this does not mean

that the Supreme Court

agrees with the arguments and reasoning of the lower

court, it does mean that this

action may be interpreted to

mean the continued prohibi-

tion of religious exercises on

public school property during

school hours.

In his decision against the

recital of prayers in the public

schools, Judge Henry J.

Friendly said that the consti-

tutional guarantees for free

speech and the free exercise

of religion do not compel a

state "to permit persons to

engage in public prayer in

state owned facilities wher-

ever and whenever they de-

serve."

He further said: "De-

termination of what is to go on

in public schools is primarily

for the school authori-

ties. Against the desire of

these parents that their chil-

dren be given an opportunity

to acknowledge their de-

pendence and love to Al-

aska."

Mrs. Susan Epperson con-

tends the law violates her

freedom to speak, as guar-

anteed in the First and Four-

teenth Amendments of the

U. S. Constitution and in arti-

cle 11, section 6 of the Ar-

ansas constitution which

states: "The free communica-

tion of thoughts and opinions

is one of the invaluable

rights of men; and all

persons may freely write and

publish their sentiments on all

subjects, being responsible

for the abuse of such right."

The state's law was adopted

in 1926 in the aftermath of

the famous Scopes "monkey

trial" in Tennessee which

pitied William Jennings Bryan

against Clarence Dar-

row, defense counsel for a

young teacher who had dis-

cussed evolution before his

class. The Arkansas statute

has come under attack recently

from the Arkansas Education

Association and others.

When the Arkansas Education

Association called for re-

peal of the restriction on

teaching Darwinian theory

earlier this year, the Greater

(Continued on page 2)

NASHVILLE (BP) — Plans have been mapped here for 24 seminars throughout the nation in January to deal with crises being faced by Baptist schools.

The seminars are being held as part of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) a two-year investigation being conducted on the higher education programs of Southern Baptists.

Plans for the seminars were outlined here by chairmen responsible for conducting the meetings in 16 states.

Three seminars each will

be in Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina; two in Georgia; and one each in Alabama, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Arizona, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, California, Louisiana, and Virginia.

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Thursday, December 16, 1965

## The Baptist Record

Largest Circulation of Any Newspaper  
Of Any Kind In Mississippi  
JOE T. ODLE, Editor

## Christmas, 1965

(Continued from page 1)

## There Is A Reason

The world must stop and listen because there is so much more to this story, than the mere historical facts.

The centuries-old setting is the scene of the beginning of the greatest event of history.

It is the record of the eternal God reaching down to reveal Himself to man.

It is the story of the Son of God leaving his throne in glory to walk among men.

It is the report of the virgin birth of God's only begotten son, wrought by divine action.

It is the fulfillment of prophecy, with events foreseen by holy men of ages past, coming to pass in one glorious hour.

It is the focal point of divine revelation, pointing to one unforgettable moment.

It is the light of eternal glory, suddenly blazing forth in the world's darkness.

It is heaven reaching down to provide celestial blessing for mankind.

## PERSPECTIVE

Robert J. Hastings

## A Christmas Prayer For 1965

O God our Father, we are so busy this Christmas of 1965 that (unless we are careful) we will overlook thy gift. We are so rich that (unless we give heed) we will disdain thy gift. We are so self-centered that (unless we unthroned self) we will belittle thy gift.

THOU didst, in the long ago, hide thy Gift in Bethlehem. Only those who were humble, sought it. Only those who were seeking, found it. Only those who were un hurried, saw it.

GRANT that we may rediscover thy Gift this Christmas. That is, may we find Him, and He be found in us. May we praise Him, and his loveliness be mirrored in us. May we serve Him, and his compassion be revealed in us.

AND if — in thy mercy — thou dost choose to grant our wish, every day shall be Christmas and every star an ornament and every breath a paean of praise to Thee.

Amen.

Handel's 'Messiah'  
To Be Televised

The sanctuary and chapel choirs of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, will present Handel's "Messiah" on television Christmas Eve. The dramatized treatment of the oratorio will be televised Friday night, December 24, at 10:30 p. m. Central Standard Time. Channel 3 (WLBT), Jackson, and Channel 13, Biloxi, will carry the 60-minute production.

Lee Roy Till, minister of music at the Dallas church, will conduct the "Messiah."

The program is produced in cooperation with the Radio-Television of the Southern Baptist Convention, and American Broadcasting Company.

## Suit Challenges...

(Continued from page 1) Little Rock Presbyterian Ministerial Association, without dissent, backed the move, stating that the law is "out of harmony with the free spirit of Christian inquiry and the best interests of education in the community."

But the Metropolitan Little Rock Association of Ministers supported the existing law, stating that there is grave "peril to all freedom and liberty inherent in the acceptance of this Satanic theory" (of evolution). Gov. Orval Faubus also opposed repeal of the anti-evolution statute. "The Bible says man was created by God and put on earth. That is good enough for me," he said. As he interpreted the law, he added, it does not prevent teachers from discussing the theory of evolution but only prohibits teaching the theory as a conclusion.

Only two other states—Mississippi and Tennessee—ban teaching about evolution in public schools.

In 1952 the Billing, Woold and Cooing Society was established at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia for the purpose of introducing young people.



Psalm 67:4 "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy."

## Education Seminars Are Set

(Continued from page 1) each seminar. Those attending the meeting will discuss in detail the problems of Christian higher education and Baptist schools, and report their findings to a BEST findings committee.

A national study conference will be held in Nashville June 13-16, 1966 for about 500 educators as a follow-up to the 24 regional conferences. Similar regional and national conferences are planned in 1967.

Purpose of the regional conferences is to get grass-roots opinions on how to solve the problems facing Baptist higher education, said Herbert C. Gabhart, president of Belmont College here and member of the BEST steering committee.

During the meeting for seminar chairmen, the coordinator for the comprehensive, two-year study program, Doak S. Campbell, outlined what he considered the major crisis facing Baptist schools.

"Perhaps the crisis that first comes to mind relates to the late of financial support," said Campbell, president emeritus of Florida State University in Tallahassee.

"Practically all of our institutions find themselves in some measure of distress in this regard," he remarked.

Campbell said that sources of income are not yielding enough funds to provide "for even a reasonably limited program of instruction." He added that income from Baptist state conventions does not increase as rapidly as the cost of operation increases.

Another crisis is the lack of understanding of the needs of

Baptist institutions, he said.

Campbell said that the Baptist Education Study Task could help in this regard by coming up with a badly needed clear and concise statement of the nature, scope, objective and purpose of Christian higher education.

"There is critical need for exploration of possible better ways of organizing and executing more effective educational programs," he said.

"Critical study and analysis is called for to indicate the extent of the effectiveness of our institutions in meeting the objectives of Christian education," he said. "Just what is the difference between a Baptist college and another college?"

## Another Crisis

Another crisis faced by Baptist schools is the critical shortage of competent professional manpower, including faculty and administration, Campbell stated.

"The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said. "Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said.

"Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in



## Christmas With Missionaries

(Editor's Note: We receive many missionary letters, and it is impossible to publish them all. Out of some Christmas messages received we use the following excerpts as representative.)

### Nigeria

Kaduna, Nigeria  
December 6, 1965  
Christmas. . . that wonderful season of the year when "peace on earth, goodwill" prevails in human hearts for one brief day at least. Comes to Africa unheralded.

No shining tree. . . no fantasy of lights. . . no bow-decked gifts. . . no "stockings all hung by the chimney with care". . .

Strange customs these, all introduced by foreigners on foreign soil. . .

But still it comes. . . as poinsettias, great hedges of them, pierce the dusty brown landscape of dry season, their red and green leaves shimmering and dancing in the hot tropical sun.

Still it comes. . . with the familiar notes of "Silent Night" or "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" sung in the less familiar Hausa or Yoruba or Ibo tongue. Still it comes. . . quietly on Christmas morning, as the drumming dies away and Christians gather to worship and adore the King of Bethlehem's manger.

Still it comes. . . not just on this one day, but everyday throughout the year, as the Saviour, born so long ago, is born anew in the pagan heart. . . and the peace of which the angels sang dispels his fears. . . and his hope for a life beyond ever-present death becomes a joyous reality in his soul. Then our African brother joins his hand in ours to

**for COLDS take 666**

**BIBLES REBOUND**  
Write for illustrated price list from Nation's largest Bible rebounder—over 100 years experience at your service. Alternative prices, finest quality work guaranteed.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING**  
103 N. Stone, Greenwood, Miss.

**SERVICES**  
Expert Piano Repair & Regulation Tuning done Electronically or Aurally  
D. L. Atkinson—Indianola, Miss.  
Telephone 887-1634

**BALDWIN**  
• Pianos • Organs  
• Sales • Rental  
• Service  
**HEMPHILL**  
**MUSIC CO.**  
James F. Metts, Owner  
111 N. State St.  
Jackson, Mississippi

**PEW PLATES**  
Engraved  
Metal & Plastic  
Made by  
**DIXIE RUBBER STAMP CO.**  
516 E. Amite St.  
Dial 948-1851  
Jackson, Miss.

**THE NEW HAMMOND**  
**CHURCH ORGAN**  
Give Added Reverence to  
Your Weekly Services  
With Today's Top The  
Choirs Sound of the  
Hammond Organ  
The Church's Praise  
Worshipers  
Praise  
516 E. Church Street  
Greenville, Miss. 38301

**THE NEW HAMMOND**  
**CHURCH ORGAN**  
Give Added Reverence to  
Your Weekly Services  
With Today's Top The  
Choirs Sound of the  
Hammond Organ  
The Church's Praise  
Worshipers  
Praise  
516 E. Church Street  
Greenville, Miss. 38301

### FMB Adds . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
**Expansion Outlook Good**

The Foreign Mission Board asked that steps be taken toward the beginning of missionary work in Morocco, Iran, and Turkey "as soon as this proves possible and feasible" and approved the request of the First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Bermuda, for a missionary or missionary associate couple to be sent to serve the church (composed mainly of servicemen and their families) and to minister spiritually to the other people of Bermuda "in such ways as are practicable and feasible."

The decision to expand the Board's work in the Middle East followed reports of Dr. Cauthen and Dr. John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East, who have recently made survey trips to the area. (Dr. Cauthen reported on his trip at the November meeting of the Board.)

Dr. Winston Crawley, secretary for the Orient, has just returned from a trip which took him to all but two of the Orient fields where Southern Baptists have missionaries. In Korea he studied with Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, the Board's medical consultant, plans for the expansion of a Baptist hospital in Pusan.

Dr. Crawley said an outstanding new development in Hong Kong is the Baptist Social Welfare Center being developed by Hong Kong Baptists to meet some of the needs of the multitude of refugees in the colony.

### Louisville Pastor Passes Away

LOUISVILLE, Ky., (BP)—W. R. Pettigrew, former first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church here for 19 years, died Dec. 12 following a coronary thrombosis.

Funeral services were held at the church where he had been pastor on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

### Top Giving . . .

(Continued from Page 1)  
\$3 million; two in Louisiana, and one each in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

In total gifts, four churches in Texas—two in Dallas, one in Houston and in Amarillo—headed the list.

Listed in order by total receipts were the following churches:

CHURCH	TOTAL GIFTS
1 First, Dallas	\$1,588,099
2 First, Amarillo	862,508
3 Park Cities,	
Dallas	812,585
4 South Main,	
Houston	761,221
5 Second Ponce De Leon, Atlanta	715,514
6 Mid City,	
New Orleans	696,524
7 First, Shreveport	628,411
8 First, Tampa	610,714
9 1st, Lubbock (Tex)	586,213
10 First, Atlanta	572,802
11 Southside,	
Birmingham	568,389
12 First, Tulsa	567,495
13 1st, San Antonio	553,305
14 Bellevue,	
Memphis	525,953
15 Broadway,	
Fort Worth	523,209

The seminary family is busy with last minute preparations for the Christmas activities. The choir will present the cantata Friday, December 11; the following week final exams will be given. Friday, December 19, the single students will have a Christmas banquet. We will have them in our home to sing carols and eat Christmas "goodies". Because of lack of funds and because of distances, several will be in the dormitory during the holidays.

Our children are looking forward to breaking pinatas with their Mexican friends. Mary Elizabeth talks constantly of her birthday party with pinatas and cake. Billy and Kathy are worried because the government has prohibited the importation of Christmas trees. We have assured them that there will be a Christmas tree even if it is a whitewashed mesquite (it has no leaves or needles).

May this Christmas Season be one in which you will be aware of the presence of Christ in your heart and life—the Christ whose birth we celebrate.

Sincerely,  
The Clawsom  
William, Kathryn, Billy,  
Kathy, and Mary

EDITOR'S NOTE: The letter above was written in 1964.

Thursday, December 23, 1965

THE BAPTIST RECORD 3



JUST AS SURELY AS CHRISTMAS FALLS ON DECEMBER 25, the unique craftsmanship of Currier and Ives turns up every year on millions of Christmas cards. "Winter in the Country," the title of this famous Currier and Ives print, has long been a popular illustration for Christmas cards. This print was made in 1864 from a painting by George H. Durrie, a New England artist. (Photo courtesy of Nationwide Mutual Insurance.)

## The History Of Christmas Customs

NEW YORK (NAPS)—

Christmas is described in song as the season to be merry. It's also a season steeped with rich traditions—some of which evolved from customs practiced before the birth of Christ.

The use of greenery at Christmas, for instance, grew out of ancient Roman and Greek customs. Romans made lavish use of green boughs and garlands to honor Saturn, their god of agriculture. Greeks awarded laurel wreaths to victorious athletes.

Holly was a favorite Roman decoration. The Druids of ancient England thought it sacred. Mistletoe was regarded as a charm against evil in Greek mythology. It was a symbol of hope and peace to the Romans. The Druids believed it had healing powers. The Norse considered it to be sacred and a symbol of love.

It was in heavily forested northern Europe that the Christmas tree custom was begun by St. Boniface, an eighth century monk. He converted the pagans living in what is now Germany, and ended their human sacrifices to Odin's sacred oak. He convinced the people instead to adorn fir trees in their homes in tribute to the Christ Child.

Legend has it that St. Nicholas secretly tossed bags of gold into the home of three dowry-less girls when they reached marriageable age.

On one of these missions, the bag fell into a stocking hung near the chimney to dry. And so began the custom of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve.

"St. Nick," who lived in Asia Minor, became the patron saint of children in several countries, including Greece, Holland, Russia, and Belgium. As his fame spread to Scandinavia, he picked up his reindeer and sleigh.

Santa's rosy cheeks, white beard, and portly frame came from the pen of Dr. Clement Moore of New York who immortalized him in his 1822 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." This poem starts with the famous line, "Twas the night before Christmas. . ."

Famed cartoonist Thomas Nast popularized Santa Claus even more in 1863 by picturing him in a bright red, fur-trimmed suit.

came highly popular as Christmas card illustrations.

Even today, Currier and Ives Christmas cards are perennial best sellers, according to greeting card firm's. One business organization alone, Nationwide Mutual Insurance of Columbus, Ohio, sends out 200,000 Currier and Ives Christmas cards each year.

The use of poinsettias as Christmas decorations isn't old as customs go. Dr. Joel Poinsett of Charleston, S. C., after whom the flower is named, introduced the plant to the U. S. in 1828. In Mexico and Central America, where the flower apparently originated, it was known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

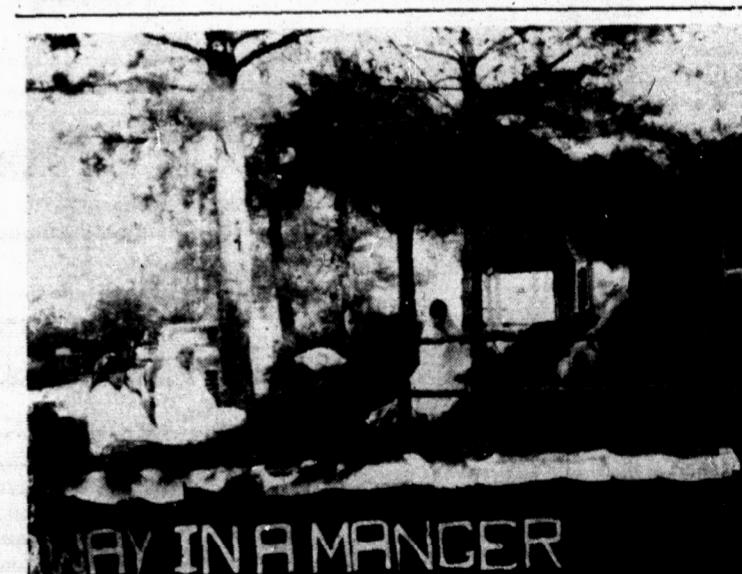
One of the most revered Christmas customs is the re-enactment of Christ's birth with a creche, or crib scene. Although started several hundred years earlier, the custom wasn't popularized until the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi.

At that time, there were few books available and most people couldn't read anyway. To give an understanding portrayal of Christmas, St. Francis dramatized the Nativity in 1224 at Greccio, Italy.

Villagers took the parts of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Live animals were used. A life-sized wax figure of the Christ Child was placed in the manger. The living creche attracted large crowds from nearby and distant areas.

And, as the pilgrims stood about admiring the scene, St. Francis led them in joyous songs written in the vernacular. Thus was born another great and popular custom—Christmas caroling.

New York — The world's tallest Bible House—12 stories high—is under construction here for the American Bible Society and will be completed in 1966 for the 150th Anniversary of the Society.



A FLOAT entered in the annual Christmas parade at Picayune, by Westside Baptist Mission of that city, won first place. The float (pictured above) which the judges named most beautiful was a manger scene with the youth of the church serving as the characters. It also featured live animals—a small pony and a calf. The mission, Rev. Bob Pearce, pastor, is sponsored by First Church, Picayune.

## PEWS FOR SALE

We are installing new chairs in our sanctuary and will have available for prompt delivery the following pews:

26 11' Long  
26 9' Long  
4 8' Long

These pews are beautiful natural oak and priced to sell.

Contact:

William Friedman

Box 430

Dial 332-8106

Greenville, Miss.

# SCRAPBOOK

## Christmas In Particular

By Theodore A. Gill

Christ is the essence of Christmas. Not goodness, or gladness, or love or laughter, but Christ. He is not . . . just one of its charming elements. He is Christmas. Because the little child is born, we and the world celebrate a day glorifying in it. Not goodness in general, but the goodness of God. Not love in general, but the amazing love of God. Not peace in general, but the peace of God. These we honor, not in the abstract, but in the particular. Because we have seen them, and know them. In the birth of Jesus Christ.

WINTER PASTIME

PERENNIAL FAVORITES are Christmas cards with winter scenes like this one by the famed 19th century lithographers, Currier and Ives. This particular scene, entitled "Winter Pastime," was printed in 1870. (Photo courtesy of Nationwide Mutual Insurance.)

## FIRST NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By James W. Duke, Pastor, First, Tutwiler

Twas the night before Christmas all over the earth, God's children were sleeping while Mary gave birth. The world had grown wicked and slept in content. There came but a few to view this event.

I stood on a hillside while watching my sheep; The other two shepherds were lost in their sleep, When up in the heavens a great star broke free And dropped from its orbit and stopped over me.

Its light shone so brightly I stood frozen in fright; It seemed as though God had challenged the night. I called to the others "rise and come here." I feared that the end might be very near.

The star spilled its brilliance over oceans of sand As angels in heaven struck up a great band When what to our wondering eyes should appear But an angel from heaven with words of good cheer.

Then swifter than eagles there appeared from above A host of God's angels to sing of His love, To God be the Glory and peace to all men: Jehovah thy King hath forgiven all sin.

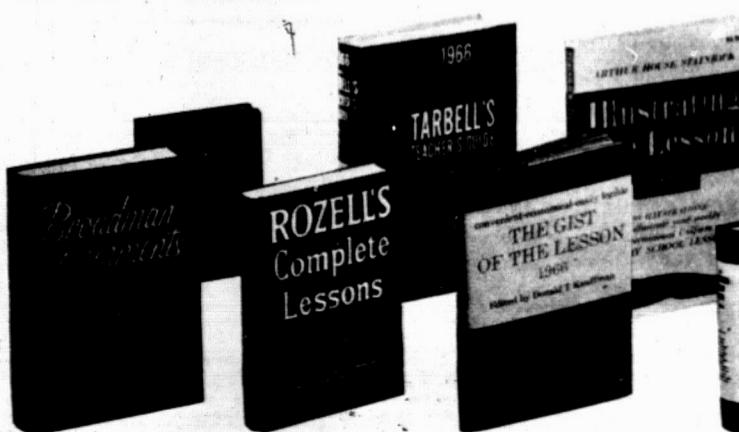
"Go up to your city and there in the hay The Son of God is born today." Then away in the heavens the angels were taken And left us alone, bewildered and shaken.

For awhile we stood speechless, then all spoke in haste, "Away to the city—for time goes to waste." And there in a stable with straw for a bed The Savior from heaven lay down His sweet head.

His birth went unnoticed, except for a few; His teachings rejected by Greeks and by Jews. With a crown made of thorns and a cross for a throne He paid for our sins, He paid it alone.

**FOR SALE:** Felgemaker pipe organ, 2-manual, electrified console. Available about May 1, 1966. First Presbyterian Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

## 1966 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES



Baptist Book Store offers you this convenient summary of Sunday school lesson commentaries for 1966. Compare, and select the commentary best suited to your individual needs as pastor, teacher, or layman. Order some for gifts, too!

### BROADMAN COMMENTS

Hugh R. Peterson and five other authors help teachers prepare each International Sunday School Lesson during 1966. Lesson treatments include the Bible text, a life-centered introduction, a teaching outline, and helps in applying the lesson to life. Includes bibliographies and visual aids suggestions. (26b). \$2.95

### POINTS FOR EMPHASIS

Clifton J. Allen A pocket-sized lesson commentary with Bible text, brief exposition and "fruits to live by." (26b) 95¢ ROZELL'S COMPLETE LESSONS

William A. Austin Rozell's commentary is unique because each lesson is complete. King James and Revised Standard Version texts are used, outlines are in bold type, latest teaching methods are built into the material, and helps in applying the lesson to life. Includes bibliographies and visual aids suggestions. (26b). \$2.95

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON GUIDE

edited by Frank S. Mead

William A. Austin

Rozell's commentary is unique because each lesson is complete. King James and Revised Standard Version texts are used, outlines are in bold type, latest teaching methods are built into the material, and helps in applying the lesson to life. Includes bibliographies and visual aids suggestions. (26b). \$2.95

### ILLUSTRATING THE LESSON

Arthur H. Stainback Inspiring, graphic illustrations for each lesson of 1966. (6r) paper \$1.50

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL edited by Horace R. Weaver; lesson analysis by Charles M. Laymon

A complete commentary on the International Sunday School Lessons with contributors from major Protestant denominations, including Dr. Clifton J. Allen, BSSB Editorial Secy. Parallel texts in KJV and RSV, explanation, application to life, teaching suggestions, Scripture and subject indexes, other special features. Illustrated 448 pages. (1a) \$2.95

STANDARD LESSON COMMENTARY

edited by John M. Cawley Eight pages of help for every week in 1966. Features King James Version text, verse-by-verse explanation, lesson background, lesson aim, directions, illustrations, photographs, maps, diagrams. Large, readable type. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON

edited by Wilbur M. Smith

Describes and illustrates effective use of the International Sunday School Lessons. Includes many illustrations, maps, diagrams, photographs, and charts. (17a) \$3.25